REPORT FOR 1908.

St. Austell,
January, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
ST. AUSTELL
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

According to the instructions laid down by the Local Government Board, I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration the report of the Sanitary Work done during the past year in your district

Although no very great work has been accomplished, still a great deal of sanitary improvements have been carried out. As you are aware the district is very thickly populated, and no doubt the population is increasing, the number of houses erected during the past year being the largest on record. As you will perceive, the Death Rate is the lowest but one for the past 30 years, and there is a slight increase in the Birth Rate.

Taking the year as a whole it has been a heathy one, the climate being very mild when compared with other counties.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

These have been less than in previous years and of a milder form. I am hoping that the parents are to some extent realizing the great importance of isolation, but some cases have come under my notice during the year where the children were being sent to school in a most unfit state. On remonstrating with the parents they usually plead ignorance.

SCARLET FEVER.

There have been altogether 103 cases: 85 in St. Austell District, which includes Roche and St. Dennis; 12 in Fowey District, which includes Fowey, Tywardreath and St. Blazey; 2 in Grampound District, which includes St. Stephens; 4 at Mevagissey, which includes St. Ewe and Gorran. There was only one fatality, and that occurred in St. Austell parish.

DIPHTHERIA & MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

There were two cases which occurred at St. Austell and St. Blazey—the one at St. Austell proved fatal. This disease was much more frequent and formidable in your districts in former years.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Four cases occurred: one at Fowey, one at Golant, one at Pen Pol (in Tywardreath parish), one at St. Mewan (in Grampound district). There was only one fatality, which occurred at Pen Pol, and that case was evidently imported, as the person affected, who was a sailor, was ill when he left his ship.

ERYSIPELAS.

Ten cases were notified: 1 in St. Austell district, 6 in Fowey district, and 3 in Grampound district—there was no fatality.

There were 119 cases notified altogether, with 3 deaths, against 139 cases in the previous year, with 4 deaths.

I now append for your information the number of cases notified and the mortality since the Act came into force.

Year	No. of Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1890	54	12	·44
1891	193	16	·56
1892	134	8	·28
1893	200	32	1·1
1894	117	23	·86
1895	112	6	·22
1896	153	8	·28
1897	50	6	·22
1898	121	4	·14
1899	216	10	·36
1900	105	10	·36
1901	130	6	·204
1902	97	5	·16
1903	62	5	·16
1904	38	2	·067
1905	189	9	·307
1906	439	8	·27
1907	139	4	·13
1908	119	3	·101

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

At the end of the year several cases occurred at Fowey: there was no fatality. The infant part of the Council School was closed, and the number of cases have abated.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping Cough has occurred in all the districts except Mevagissey, and there were 11 fatalities—7 in St. Austell, 3 in Fowey, and 1 in Grampound. Four of the fatal cases were under one year, and six between one and five years.

CROUP.

Croup caused three deaths in young children—two in Fowey and one in Grampound District.

INFLUENZA.

There has been no fatality from this and it does not appear so severe as in former years.

DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS.

Six cases proved fatal—3 in St. Austell, 2 in Grampound, and 1 in Mevagissey.

You will see from the foregoing that there were 20 deaths from Non-notifiable Diseases, Whooping Cough being the most fatal, whilst from the Notifiable Diseases there were only 3 deaths.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

From Phthisis and the other Tubercular Diseases there were 42 deaths, against 48 for the previous year. Twenty of the deaths occurred in St. Austell, 14 in Fowey, 6 in Grampound, and 2 in Mevagissey District. Most of these cases were of young people, and the mortality from this dreadful disease does not appear to decrease.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

There has been a great deal of useful work carried out during the past year. Something has been accomplished in each of the Districts. A great many improvements have been made, several new privies have been constructed, and dilapidated ones re-modelled. Several old cottages have been demolished, and a house to house visitation has been made, where deemed necessary.

One of our greatest difficuties is in places where soapy water is thrown into the highway, and there are no proper drains to carry it away.

Complaints about the condition of piggeries have been frequent: no matter how clean they are kept, in certain weather they are offensive.

WATER SUPPLY.

This has been improved and extended. At Bugle the reservoir is now completed and the supply has been carried to Molinnis and Rosevear. It has also been taken to Netley. During the year there has been a constant and pure supply in that neighbourhood, and I have no doubt it will be further extended in due course. I have no doubt it will prove a great boon to that district.

The water supply at Polgooth has been improved. Several deep wells have been sunk and a great many of the old ones have been repaired.

SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

The water supply in the Special Drainage District at Carclaze has been cut down owing to a deep level having been driven in that neighbourhood. The Council at once obtained a new supply and are proceeding with the work with all speed so that you may be prepared to supply the said District in the summer. The present scheme will not only be sufficient to supply the Special Drainage District, but also the higher portion of St. Austell and that neighbourhood. In the summer months of 1908 the yield was about 60 gallons a minute. A shaft has been sunk about forty-five feet, and a level driven for over one hundred feet. The greater part of the level is in solid granite, from which the supply is obtained As soon as possible machinery will be erected for raising the water to a reservoir to be constructed at the highest available point. From this you will perceive that the Council are fully alive to the necessity of a pure and wholesome supply for their districts.

At Highfield Avenue about four hundred feet of six inch sewer has been laid for the purpose of draining the newly erected houses at the western side of the Avenue.

At Fowey two flushing tanks have been constructed, one for the main sewer at North Street, the other for the sewer in Fore Street.

DRAINAGE.

The Drainage has been extended and improved, more especially at Grampound, where a new twelve inch drain has been laid for the purpose of draining the lower part of the town. So far this has proved satisfactory, and has prevented the houses in the lower part of the town being flooded.

At Par Post Office about one hundred feet of eighteen inch stoneware socket pipes were laid, also about two hundred feet of six inch drain near the same place. This has been before the Council for several years, but owing to difficulties with the landlord it was deferred. I feel certain that it will prove a great boon to that neighbourhood.

The Charlestown Drainage has been under consideration nearly the whole year, and the outfall, which was the most important, was left in such a condition that your Committee met in Council on the matter, and decided that their own Inspector should carry out the work for a distance of about 130 feet, which has been done in a most efficient and thorough manner. This was by no means easy to accomplish on account of the depth of water through which the pipes had at times to be laid. Since the completion of the outfall the houses are gradually being connected.

About seven hundred feet of nine inch stoneware drain has been laid at the north side of Golant Village : it has been properly trapped with eighteen inch cast iron traps, and the outfall has been taken to low water mark. This I hope will prove a great boon to that part of the village.

NUISANCES.

A considerable number of nuisances has been abated, chiefly relating to cess heaps and their surroundings, and the accumulation of filth and other objectionable matter in connection with dwelling houses. The habits of some of the people are very dirty, and they have no regard for cleanliness, and require constant supervision : hence the difficulty when two or more families have access to the same privy.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Slaughter Houses have been systematically inspected, and on the whole show an improvement : any defects, after having been notified to the Council, have been promptly attended to.

At Trelissick, St. Ewe, the Sanitary arrangements were thoroughly inspected, and the parts found unsatisfactory had immediate attention. The whole place was completely renovated on giving the agent oral notice.

I am pleased that something has been done at Hewaswater. The drain has been piped across the road at Mr. Dan Smith's. The drainage of the slaughter house was in a very bad condition previously, and I hope the laying down of the drain will improve matters.

There have been a few cases of overcrowding. On our visiting the houses the nuisances were abated on giving oral notice, and I am pleased to say the cases are getting very much less.

We have given our attention to the Factory and Workshops Act. The workshops have been severally visited and inspected, and whatever defects have been found were remedied. On the whole they have improved, and we have seen that they have been whitewashed and ventilated. Our great difficulty has been with the privy accommodation, especially where two have to be erected. There has sometimes been no proper place to put these except in the building, where they are likely to become a nuisance. Nevertheless we have had several constructed during the year, and placed in the best position we could command.

OUTWORKERS.

As to Outworkers : as far as we can ascertain there are none in the districts, and there are no dangerous trades on which to report.

At present we have no registered Lodging Houses in the district, although tramps abound. They find their way to the Workhouse.

OTHER SANITARY WORK.

Most of the work in contemplation when I wrote my report for the year 1907 has been accomplished in a most satisfactory manner. Of the two depots for refuse at Tywardreath one is completed and the other is in course of construction. The eighteen inch drain at Par Post Office has been satisfactorily laid, and the nuisance complained of abated. The Grampound Drainage has also been dealt with, and the Drinking Water for the Special Drainage District is having immediate attention. At St. Blazey Station the sanitary arrangements have been considerably improved ; the old system of closets has been condemned and replaced by new up-to-date closets, properly trapped and ventilated.

The New Buildings at Par Green are to be supplied with drinking water from the Council's existing main, and about thirteen hundred feet of two inch pipes will be laid. Also at Par Post Office it is proposed to lay down a new main, the old one being defective. The Council are also laying (temporarily) about two thousand feet of inch and a half water pipes to supply the Special Drainage District until the new supply from Penwithick is obtainable.

The Urinals at Whitehouse, Fowey, are not constructed, although the Fowey Councillors have been unremitting in their endeavours to obtain a site for that purpose. I hope that this difficulty will soon be overcome.

MEVAGISSEY.

Mevagissey has had our attention. Owing to the way in which the town is built—the houses being so close to one another—there is really no space for privies, or other conveniences. Under the present circumstances, to construct privies is out of the question, as in time they are bound to become nuisances.

ROCHE.

Roche Water Scheme is still in abeyance. The difficulty is to obtain a supply.

ST. STEPHENS.

I should be pleased to see a supply of drinking water obtained for St. Stephens Churchtown ; but here we are met with the difficulty that it is in the centre of a clay district where every little stream available is taken up, and in matters of this kind compulsory powers are the only remedy.

This report is to a great extent condensed, and does not give an idea of a tithe of the Sanitary Work that has been done in the Districts. When one looks back a few years and remembers what work has been done, and the improvements made, one cannot help saying that the general condition of the Districts reflects great credit on the Council. I am certain no better proof of this can be given than the manner in which the Death Rate has fallen.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

I now append the Birth and Death Rate since I have been your Officer. The former has slightly increased and the latter considerably decreased.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1880	33·9	21·7
1881	32·9	18·7
1882	31·8	15·9
1883	31·8	18·2
1884	33·39	19·6
1885	32·6	18·6
1886	33·8	19·6
1887	29·7	19·5
1888	31·9	17·2
1889	36·6	17·6
1890	31·6	18·8
1891	32·7	19·4
1892	30·5	15·5
1893	29·8	21·4
1894	28·7	16·7
1895	31·4	18·9
1896	31·8	14·9
1897	31·3	16·7
1898	31·1	15·8
1899	30·6	18·6
1900	29·5	15·9
1901	28·04	14·7
1902	26·5	14·2
1903	25·9	13·2
1904	26·5	14·05

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1905	25·3	15·3
1906	26·1	12·3
1907	25·4	13·8
1908	26·1	13·1

The Birth Rate is below the average, but has slightly increased. The Death Rate is the lowest but one for the past thirty years. The Deaths under one year are below the average for the past ten years, but I hope to see them lower.

I now give you the Table for the separate Districts :

ST. AUSTELL.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Under 1 Year.
1900	32·6	16·5	3·9
1901	29·4	14 6	3·8
1902	26·2	14·6	3·7
1903	26·5	13·	2·5
1904	28·8	15·1	3·6
1905	28·2	16·5	3·9
1906	28·2	12·7	3·1
1907	28·7	13·6	2·1
1908	30·7	13·6	3·6

FOWEY.

1900	29·1	15·3	2·3
1901	25·1	15·3	2·8
1902	25·9	13·8	3·3
1903	23·9	12·6	1.8
1904	23·7	14·9	2·4
1905	21·06	14·4	1·8
1906	22·7	14·1	2·08
1907	20·9	15·	2·2
1908	19·2	13·5	2·2

GRAMPOUND.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Under 1 Year.
1900	32·4	17·8	4·4
1901	30·5	15·5	3·3
1902	27·7	16·5	2 6
1903	29·5	14·2	3·1
1904	29·	13·9	3·8
1905	28·3	14·4	4·9
1906	31·1	12·2	2·1
1907	27·8	14·2	4·1
1908	30·8	13·6	2·8

MEVAGISSEY.

1900	18·7	13·8	1·8
1901	25·5	12·6	·75
1902	25·	10·3	1·7
1903	22·9	13·6	2·
1904	20·9	9·3	1·7
1905	17·9	14·8	3·02
1906	18·9	10·8	1·5
1907	20·4	11·3	1·
1908	18·6	10·3	1·5

From the foregoing you will see that the Birth Rates for St. Austell and Grampound are the highest, the former being 30·7 and the latter 30·8; whilst Mevagissey is the lowest, being 18·6, and Fowey next, 19·2.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate at St. Austell and Grampound is the same, viz., 13·6, whilst Fowey is 13.5, and Mevagissey is the lowest, 10·3. The Deaths under one year: St. Austell is highest, 3·6; Grampound, 2·8; Fowey, 2·2; and Mevagissey, 1·5.

The Deaths are below the average in all the Districts.

BIRTH RATE.

The Births are above the average for the past ten years in St. Austell and Grampound, and below the average at Fowey and Mevagissey.

CASES NOTIFIED.

The cases notified are less than the previous year, 119 to 139, and the Deaths were three, compared with four for the previous year.

TABLE IV.

Table IV gives the Deaths from all Diseases, arranged under different ages. The Deaths in the several Districts are also given. As to the Infectious Diseases, the only increase in the mortality is from Whooping Cough, from which eleven fatal cases are recorded, against five in the previous year.

The number of Deaths from Consumption is the same as the previous year, 33. Other Tubercular Diseases have decreased from 15 to 9, and the other diseases also appear to show a slight decrease.

TABLE V.

Table V shews the Infant Mortality, and has already been referred to, the only increase being in St. Austell District.

In concluding this report I may say that the Sanitary Work, &c. undertaken during the year has been carried out in a most agreeable manner, the Council and Officers assisting me in every possible way, making what sometimes seems an irksome and troublesome matter to pass off agreeably. Of course in a large district like yours we have great difficulties to face, but with a little kindness and forbearance things pass off very well, and, indeed, in my opinion it is the only way to carry out great reforms, and I hope that in the future, as in the past, the same harmony and good feeling will prevail.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

JOHN STEPHENS, Esq.,
St. Austell.